

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the primer layer also include a repellency preventative agent, as discussed at pages 7 and 8 of the PCT publication. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone conversation held April 20, 2006, providing their representatives with clarifying information pertaining to the identify of the secondary references cited in the Advisory Action.

Applicants understand that the Examiner has withdrawn her rejection of claims 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over EP 839 643, but has maintained the rejection of claims 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Umeya, U.S. Patent No. 5,859,122. Thus Applicants will only address the Umeya rejection.

The claimed invention has been amended to recite inclusion of a repellency preventative agent. Umeya is not believed to describe or suggest inclusion of a repellency preventive agent, or to suggest the importance thereof. Example 1 of the instant application demonstrates that the repellency preventive agent is important in achieving a desired coating of the primer layer on the base material. If the repellency preventive agent is included, a primer coating is achieved. If the repellency preventive agent is not included, no primer coating is apparently achieved.

Because Umeya does not appear to be concerned with being able to achieve a primer coating on a base material that includes a plasticizing resin, Umeya cannot be considered as describing or suggesting including a repellency preventive agent in a primer composition. Indeed, Umeya is directed to an entirely different problem, that being providing improved properties to fiber materials without making the fiber materials excessively hard. Even though the reference discloses application to other materials such as paper, wood, metal and other materials, the problem to which Umeya is directed is as mentioned.

Umeya is not believed to teach or suggest the claimed invention. The Examiner has, in the Advisory Action, cited Ho et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,607,831, and Anderson et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0232222, as supportive of certain assertions made in the previous Office Action. However, neither have actually been relied upon in a rejection and neither reference are

believed to be directed to providing a primer material that includes a repellency preventive agent and thus can be used for priming a base material that includes a plasticizing agent. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims. Prompt passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact their representative at the number listed below.

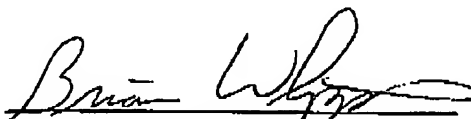
Please continue to send all future correspondence for this matter to:

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Respectfully submitted,

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